

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 STR-01 TRSE-00

AGR-05 AID-05 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /101 R

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TREASURY -MRYSS

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AID/A -PBOUGHTON

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR

SUBJECT: EXTENSION BY PROTOCOL OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
AGREEMENT (IWA)

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1. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL AND

FOOD AID COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD LONDON FEBRUARY 12-13 TO DECIDE ON FURTHER EXTENSION IWA BEYOND CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE OF JUNE 30, 1975. DECISION NECESSARY TO ALLOW TIME FOR PREPARING PROTOCOLS, SIGNATURE PERIOD AND COUNTRY RATIFICATIONS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

2. IWA CONSISTS OF TWO CONVENTIONS, WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION (WTC) AND FOOD AID CONVENTION (FAC). WTC APPLIES TO COMMERCIAL TRADE IN WHEAT; FAC EMBODIES ANNUAL FOOD AID OBLIGATIONS IN WHEAT OR COARSE GRAINS. ADDRESSEES ARE THOSE COUNTRIES (PLUS EEC) WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF BOTH WTC AND FAC. FYI. ANNUAL OBLIGATIONS OF EACH MEMBER UNDER FAC (IN METRIC TONS) ARE: US-1,890,000; EEC-1,287,000; CANADA-495,000; AUSTRALIA-225,000; JAPAN-225,000; SWEDEN-35,000; SWITZERLAND-32,000; ARGENTINA-23,000; FINLAND-14,000.

3. IWA 1971 WAS NEGOTIATED FOR THREE YEAR TERM, EXPIRING JUNE 30, 1974. WE AND MOST OTHER COUNTRIES WERE PREPARED LAST YEAR TO EXTEND BOTH CONVENTIONS FOR TWO YEARS. BECAUSE EEC WAS NOT PREPARED CONTINUE FAC FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, MEMBER COUNTRIES SETTLED ON ONE YEAR EXTENSIONS BOTH CONVENTIONS AND IWA.

4. SINCE LAST YEAR'S EXTENSION, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HAS TAKEN PLACE. WFC RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER FOOD POLICY PROPOSALS COULD HAVE MAJOR BEARING ON SUBSTANCE OF FUTURE IWA. PENDING DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON NEGOTIATING ELEMENTS FOR NEW IWA WE SUPPORT FURTHER EXTENSION WTC AND FAC.

5. WHILE WE HOPE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN MOVE QUICKLY ON SUCCESSOR AGREEMENTS TO WTC AND FAC, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PERIOD REQUIRED FOR NEGOTIATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW AGREEMENTS WILL EXTEND BEYOND JUNE 30, 1976. THEREFORE, US PREFERENCE IS FOR TWO YEAR EXTENSIONS OF BOTH WTC AND FAC AT FEBRUARY MEETINGS. SHOULD OTHER COUNTRIES NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT TWO YEAR EXTENSIONS OF BOTH CONVENTIONS, WE WILL AGREE TO SINGLE YEAR EXTENSIONS.

6. WITH REGARD NEGOTIATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW AGREEMENTS COVERING COMMERCIAL TRADE AND FOOD AID, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DRAFT EXTENDING PROTOCOLS FOR BOTH WTC AND FAC PROVIDE THAT THEY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL REPLACED. IN OTHER WORDS, TWO YEAR EXTENSION AT THIS TIME DOES NOT MEAN THAT STATUS QUO WOULD CONTINUE FOR THAT ENTIRE PERIOD. WE BELIEVE THIS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WITH RESPECT FOOD AID COMMITMENTS IN LIGHT OF WFC TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS.

7. ACTION. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS (AUTHORITIES) OF US POSITION ON IWA EXTENSION

AT FEBRUARY MEETINGS AND INQUIRE AND REPORT (INFO
LONDON) THEIR POSITIONS. KISSINGER

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